Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the disorder is cancer.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the disorder is at least partially resistant against apoptosis-inducing therapy.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the disorder is at least partially resistant against administration of cytostatic and/or cytotoxic medicaments, particularly apoptosis-inducing medicaments.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand is co-applied with a further therapeutic procedure and/or medicament.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the medicament is co-applied with an irradiation therapy.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the medicament is co-applied with a further anti-cancer medicament~~, particularly with a chemotherapeutic agent or with an anti-tumour antibody~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the further anti-cancer medicament is selected from doxorubicin, a taxane, cis/trans-platin or derivatives thereof, 5-fluorouracil, mitomycin D, paclitaxel, etoposide, cyclophosphoamide, docetaxel or other apoptosis-inducing drugs or proteins~~, in particular antibodies~~.

10-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the disorder is cancer.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the receptor tyrosine kinase is selected from the group consisting of EGFR and other members of the EGFR family.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the receptor is EGFR.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand is a ligand capable of binding to the extracellular domain of said receptor tyrosine kinase.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand is selected from HB-EGF, EGF, amphiregulin, betacellulin, epiregulin, TGF-α, neuregulin or heregulin.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand is HB-EGF.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the inhibitor is an inhibitor of a metalloprotease capable of cleaving the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand or an inhibitor of regulatory steps upstream of the metalloprotease.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the inhibitor is a direct inhibitor of the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the inhibitor acts on the nucleic acid level.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the inhibitor is a specific transcription inhibitor, particularly selected from anti-sense molecules, ribozymes or RNAi molecules.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the inhibitor is a gene inactivator.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the inhibitor acts on the protein level.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein [[the]] said inhibitor is a specific protein inhibitor~~, particularly selected from antibodies or antibody fragments and/or from roteinaceous or low-molecular weight inhibitors~~.

28. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition or kit comprising as active ingredients

(a) an inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand which is an inhibitor of a metalloprotease capable of cleaving the receptor tyrosine kinase ligand or an inhibitor of regulatory steps upstream of the metalloprotease, and

(b) a further medicament for the treatment of hyperproliferative disorders.

29. (Withdrawn) The composition or kit of claim 28 which additionally comprises pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents and/or adjuvants.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~preventing or~~ treating an at least partially

therapy-resistant hyperproliferative disorder comprising ~~administrating~~ administering an inhbitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand to a subject in need thereof, wherein said inhibitor acts directly on said receptor tyrosine kinase ligand itself or on a metalloprotease capable of cleaving said receptor tyrosine kinase ligand, and wherein said disorder is an at least partially irradiation- and/or medicament-resistant cancer.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing the efficacy of therapies against hyperproliferative disorders in a patient in need of such increase, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of an inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand, wherein said inhibitor acts directly on said receptor tyrosine kinase ligand itself or on a metalloprotease capable of cleaving said receptor tyrosine kinase ligand, and wherein said disorders are at least partially irradiation- and/or medicament-resistant cancers.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing the sensitivity of hyperproliferative disorders against irradiation and/or medicament treatment in a patient in need of such increased sensitivity, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of an inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand, wherein said inhibitor acts directly on said receptor tyrosine kinase ligand itself or on a metalloprotease capable of cleaving said receptor tyrosine kinase ligand, and wherein said disorders are at least partially irradiation- and/or medicament-resistant cancers.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~preventing or~~ treating a hyperproliferative disorder which is caused by or associated with stress-induced activation of a receptor tyrosine kinase in a patient in need of such prevention or treatment, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of an inhibitor of a receptor tyrosine kinase ligand, wherein said inhibitor acts directly on said receptor tyrosine kinase ligand itself or on a metalloprotease capable of cleaving said receptor tyrosine kinase ligand, and wherein said stress is an

oxidative stress, an osmotic stress, a p38-mediated stress, or a combination thereof.

34. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said further anti-cancer medicament is selected from the group consisting of a chemotherapeutic agent, an anti-tumour antibody, and an apoptosis-inducing antibody.

35. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said tyrosine kinase ligand inhibitor is an antibody or antibody fragment directed against a tyrosine kinase ligand.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said antibody or antibody fragment is directed against HB-EGF.

37. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said tyrosine kinase ligand inhibitor is a proteinaceous or low-molecular weight inhibitor.